

CTSJ

**Critical Theory and Social Justice
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Introduction

The department of Critical Theory and Social Justice at Occidental College is committed to interdisciplinary work in the interface of race, gender, sexuality, and postcoloniality. The intersection of these concerns produces novel and engaging opportunities for theoretical/political work that is well-suited for undergraduate research and writing. The journal CTSJ is therefore issued as a forum for the development and publication of original and imaginative undergraduate work in the convergence, overlap, and cross-illumination of these areas.

This initial issue contains essays that explore this transdisciplinary terrain. “He Proclaims Uhuru” by Brenda McNary turns Aimé Césaire to a conversation with Shakespeare for the purpose of claiming the possibility of “powerful utterances” and identifying the terms by which any slave/one “can come to speech in his own politically urgent historical moment.” The second essay, “Unworking the Sadean Communion” by Jacob Friedman, adopts the work of Jean-Luc Nancy for a critical and original reading of community in Marquis de Sade’s *Philosophy of the Bedroom*. At stake in this essay is the range and power of Nancy’s work in the imagining of a moral community. This issue of CTSJ also contains two essays concerned with the reading of contemporary culture. The first, “I Love My Niggas No Homo” by Nebeu Shimeles, takes as its point of departure the expressive qualifier, “no-homo.” Using post-colonial theory, he examines the altering effects of capitalism on the violently homophobic posture of black masculinity in hip-hop. The final essay, “Smear It on Your Face, Rub It on Your Body” by Shannon Docherty, is a bold, imaginative exercise in the continued reimagining of menarchy, menstrual anarchy, as a critical feminist project. The journal also strives to publish artistic work in theory and justice. This issue features the undergraduate work of Tucker Neel, an artist, writer, and curator living and working in Los Angeles. His complete projects can be viewed at www.tuckerneel.com, and www.gyst-ink.com.

We offer this inaugural issue both as an introduction to those interested in the development of undergraduate writing and publication and as a call for papers from undergraduates from any institution. In addition to ongoing collective volumes, we anticipate publishing regular special issues. Topics for upcoming special issues include a critical examination of the work of George Bataille, human trafficking edited by Professor Donna Maeda, “helping” Haiti edited by Professor Elizabeth Chin, the politics of collegiate sexuality edited by Professor Jeff Tobin, and the nexus of affect and (dis)ability edited by Professor Heather Lukes.

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